



62 Sutherland Square, London SE17 3EL
Plan B is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
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Direct email: tim@planb.earth

Mr Joe Sullivan & Mr Niall Toru
General Public Law and Planning Litigation Team B5
Litigation Group, Government Legal Department
One Kemble Street
London WC2B 4TS

Sent by email only:

niall.toru@governmentlegal.gov.uk

joe.sullivan@governmentlegal.gov.uk

Request for a review of the ANPS under section 6 of the Planning Act

Dear Joe and Niall

I write to request that the Secretary of State conduct a review of the ANPS under section 6 of the Planning Act 2008, in light of yesterday's approval by Parliament of a motion declaring a climate and ecological emergency; and following the publication today of the Climate Change Committee's report "*Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming*"¹.

The ANPS was designated on the assumption that it was premature to speculate on the implications of the Paris Agreement for the UK carbon target for 2050.

That assumption has now been overtaken by events. The Committee's report, commissioned by the Government in October 2018, recommends that the Government implement a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (which implies net zero carbon dioxide emissions even earlier than that). In his forward, Lord Deben, Chair of the Committee, states:

"We conclude that net-zero is necessary, feasible and cost-effective. Necessary – to respond to the overwhelming evidence of the role of greenhouse gases in driving global climate change, and to meet the UK's commitments as a signatory of the 2015 Paris Agreement ...

I urge the governments of the UK, in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff to consider our advice carefully and legislate for these new targets as swiftly as possible. We must now increase our ambition to tackle climate change. The science demands it; the evidence is before you; we must start at once; there is no time to lose."

¹ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Net-Zero-The-UKs-contribution-to->

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The Committee's advice is consistent with the conclusions of the report commissioned by the Secretary of State himself, "*International aviation and the Paris Agreement temperature goals*"², published in December 2018 which states:

"any continued emissions of CO2 from aviation using fossil fuels beyond around 2050 will be inconsistent with the Paris Agreement goals in the absence of extra measures".

It is also relevant that yesterday Parliament approved a motion to declare a climate and ecological emergency³. The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, said:

"We recognise that it is an emergency ... The next generation will face the consequence if we don't take action."

It is now clear that the viability of Heathrow expansion must be assessed against the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, which has been recommended by the Committee, and which is supported by research commissioned and published by the Secretary of State.

An early indication of your client's position on this matter would assist us in assessing the necessity of an appeal against yesterday's judgement of the High Court, potentially saving time and cost on all sides.

Yours,



Tim Crosland
Director, Plan B

²

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/763261/international-aviation-paris-agreement.pdf

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48126677>